

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contacts:

Jeff McCartney SC.GOV 803.771.0131 jeff.mccartney@portal.sc.gov

Dana Yow EOC Director of Communications 803.734-6164 danay@eoc.sc.gov





South Carolina Launches School Report Cards Searchable Database at www.SC.gov

COLUMBIA, S.C. – January 29, 2008 – Understanding school performance is important for families living in or looking to relocate to South Carolina. People interested in finding more information about school district and individual school performance can now find this information online at the state's official Web site (www.SC.gov).

The new online searchable database is managed by the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee and allows citizens to search for schools using a variety of report card-related keywords, including school type, number of students, and school poverty level, among others. "The information on the Web site and the school and district report cards are tools for improving our schools and energizing communities," stated Dr. Jo Anne Anderson, EOC Executive Director. "The EOC and our partners are pleased to expand information access to wider audiences."

School and district report cards are part of the state's education accountability system. Report cards provide educators, parents, students, and the general public with a variety of information including student performance on state standardized tests, programs and services, student and teacher attendance, funding, and more. The report cards also show the improvement rating for each school and district.

"SC.gov is pleased to be involved in this public-private partnership with the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee," said Jeff McCartney, General Manager of SC.gov. "This is a unique application that provides schools and communities with information to evaluate the performance of our public schools."

About the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee

The SC Education Oversight Committee is an independent, non-partisan group made up of 18 educators, business leaders, and elected leaders. Created in 1998, the committee is dedicated to reporting facts, measuring change, and promoting progress within South Carolina's education system.

The EOC provides regular, routine, and ongoing reviews of the state's education improvement process, assesses how South Carolina's schools are performing, and evaluates the standards the state's must meet to build the education system needed to compete in the next century. The work of the committee supports higher levels of student achievement. Additional information is available at www.eoc.sc.gov.

About SC.gov

SC.gov is the official Web site of the state of South Carolina (www.sc.gov) and a collaborative effort between the state and South Carolina Interactive to Web-enable the state's information services. SC.gov was built and is managed by South Carolina Interactive, a Columbia-based subsidiary of eGovernment firm NIC that oversees the state's official Web site under contract with the Budget and Control Board's Division of the Chief Information Officer.

About NIC

NIC manages more eGovernment services than any provider in the world. The company helps government communicate more effectively with citizens and businesses by putting essential services online. NIC provides eGovernment solutions for 2,600 state and local agencies that serve more than 69 million people in the United States. Additional information is available at www.nicusa.com.